VOL. I. No. 11

MEHL'S Numismatic Monthly

A Numismatic Journal for the General Collector, and especially for the beginner and young Collector

Subscription 50¢ per year

NOVEMBER
1908

PUBLISHED BY
B. MAX MEHL
Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

JUST OUT

AN ELABORATE COIN BOOK

The Star Coin Book

SECOND EDITION

THE MOST COMPLETE AND MAGNIFICENT COIN BOOK EVER ISSUED AT ANY PRICE.

NO PAINS NOR EXPENSE HAS BEEN SPARED TO MAKE THIS BOOK COMPLETE IN EVERY DETAIL.

OVER ONE HUNDRED (100) PAGES ; NEARLY ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS.

This handsome book is not a mere "guide," but an authentic and reliable book on coins. It shows the value of each rare coin, marked in plain figures, and the prices which we guarantee to pay for the coins. It prices American Colonial, United States gold, silver, copper and nickel coins, from the establishment of the mint in 1793 down to date. Fractional currency, Confederate currency and coins, old bank bills, Colonial, and Continental paper money, Pioneer gold coins of Colorado, California, Utah, Oregon, Carolina, and Georgia. A description of all the branch mints and the complete list of the rare mint marked coins. A list of rare Canadian coins, and a list of ALL the foreign coins and their value in United States money. Various tables of U. S. Coins, showing the amounts and number of pieces issued by the U. S. Government at all branch mints since the establishment of the mint in 1793 down to the present date. The weights and fineness of U. S. Gold and coins. Etc., etc.

This book is especially gotten up to answer all questions regarding coins and coinage, and contains all possible information about coins—their various conditions and rarity, mints, coinage and different terms applied to old coins, etc., etc. It is artistically printed on a fine grade of paper and is illustrated by nearly one thousand (1,000) magnificent illustrations which were made direct from the coins—illustrating the rare coins of the entire world from about 600 B. C. to the present day.

If you have any old coins, paper money, etc., you should have a copy of this valuable book, showing prices paid for all rare coins; pricing thousands of coins.

THE FINEST AND MOST COMPLETE BOOK OF ITS KIND EVER ISSUED AT ANY PRICE.

Sent postpaid to any address upon receipt of only 25c. in silver or stamps. ¶A $1.00 COIN BOOK FOR 25c

Send all orders direct to

B. MAX MEHL

P. O. Box 826 FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. I. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, NOVEMBER, 1908 No. 11

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

Money---Past and Present

A Story for Beginners and Those Just Getting Interested in Numismatics.

By JOS. H. GEIS.

Money as a medium of exchange in barter and trade has always in all times found expression in some form or other from necessity thereof. Webster defines money, "Coin, stamped metal, pieces of metal used as a medium of commerce." In the remotest periods before gold or silver were generally in use it took the form of animals, oxen, sheep, lambs, shells, etc. Thus we find used cattle in Germany, leather in Rome, sugar in the West Indies, shells in Siam, lead in Burmah, platinum in Russia, tin in Great Britain, iron and nails in Scotland, brass in China, and finally copper, silver and gold the world over.

If we look up the sacred writings in quest of the earliest use of money quoted therein we will find that the Bible mentions gold as a medium of value in the very first book of Moses, which according to modern synchronology would be about 4,000 years before the time of Christ or almost 6,000 years ago. Namely, Genesis, chapter II, 10, 11, 12, "And a river went out of Eden, the land of Havilah where there is gold, and the gold of that land is good." Hence Adam and Eve could have found gold in Havilah just the same as we do in the Yukon today. Immediately thereafter brass and iron are mentioned, Genesis, chapter IV, 22, "And Zillah she bare Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron." Tubal-Cain, son of Lamech, a descendant of Cain, apparently was the first man to shape metals into articles of use and probably our very first goldsmith and jeweler.

Silver is first mentioned in the Bible in the time of Abram, Genesis, Chapter XIII, 2, "Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold." Also in chapter XX, 16, where Abimilech said to Sara: "Behold I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver." The earliest mention of the word "money" occurs in Genesis, chapter XVII, 12, 13, 23. "He that is born in the house or bought with money." And again in chapter XXIII, 9, 13, 15, 16, when Abraham bought the field and cave of Machpelah of Epron for 400 shekels of silver which he weighed to Ephron as "current money." The first use of earrings and bracelets appears in Genesis, chapter XXIV, 22, 30, Rebekah at the well, "The man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold." So we find that the ancient Hebrews had their measure of value expressed by the shekel, and these shekels were weighed out, as to Ephron, not counted, apparently the early money did not have an equal weight as the ancient tombs of Egypt still show traces of scales engraved on their walls signifying the wealth of their owners as weighed in shekels and lambs, for lambs were really the chief article of barter among these Egyptians, and from this weighing orig-

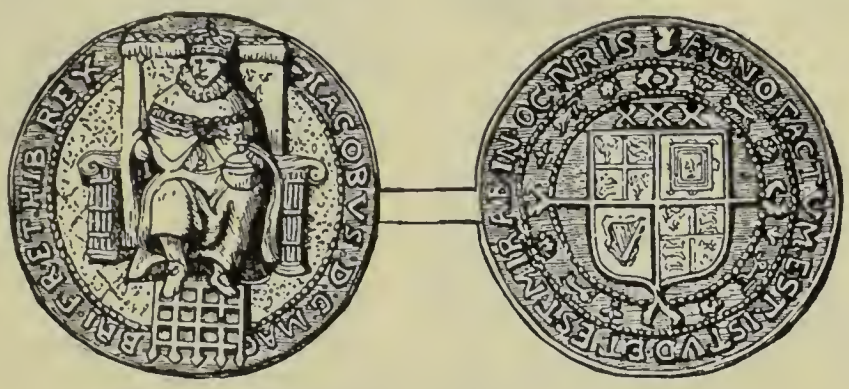
inated the term shekel in coinage, shekel meaning in Hebrew 'to weigh," which developed into weighing shekels at certain fixed amounts the standard of which was likely fixed in the beginning by the approximate value of sheep or lamb, and yet the shekel soon must have assumed a relative and positive value, thereby taking its place as a normal piece of money—an embryo coin—though not stamped—long before the time of Simon Maccabaen's, for early in the book of Exodus we find mentioned a half shekel and note its further division into twenty other parts: Exodus, chapter XXX, 13, 15, "This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: a shekel is twenty Gerahs." Then the Old Testament further enlightens us that the shekels were of three different metals, gold, silver and brass as per Exodus, chapter XXXVIII, 24, 25, 29, "All the gold was twenty-nine talents seven hundred and thirty shekels, and the silver was an hundred talents and a thousand seven hundred three score and fifteen shekels, and the brass was seventy talents two thousand four hundred shekels." The silver shekel of the sanctuary twenty Gerahs—would, it is calculated, have been equivalent to about 59 cents of our money of today.

Ancient Greek Tetradrachm

Rebekah at the well certainly was the first woman of record to wear bracelets and earrings, thus originating a habit which has never since been improved upon except as to the additional amount of valuable gems such as pearls and diamonds being added to the gold earrings as first worn. This habit grew and extended also to anklets in later periods, possibly from a custom of saving as there were no investments in those days and when a family possessed much gold it was shaped into rings and anklets and fastened upon arms or limbs until necessity compelled its removal for other exchanges when it was weighed out at so many shekels worth that this habit of wearing values in bands and rings in the ages of antiquity was the first conception of the idea of saving and that this saving led to more rings and eventually developed into their use as money, may be inferred from the fact that so much "ring money" was found in Great Britain when the Romans under Caesar invaded that country, this ring-money having degenerated from gold to brass and iron among the people of that country before the English Kings began to coin money. In all oriental countries, even today, the custom of wearing heavy gold earrings, bracelets, and anklets, is still in vogue, and I have seen Egyptian and even Italian women with tremendous sized earrings and other ornaments as external evidence of their savings and showing off of their wealth.

Gold and silver originally being in lumps, nuggets and bars were—as we have now seen—in this manner weighed out in the making of payments for commercial transactions, but there being no certainty of the purity of the metal, no convenience in size, the lumps being too large, necessity arose for smaller amounts and divisions, which were gradually made, vouched for, and a die stamp invented which was punched by hand on one side of the smaller lumps of gold or silver thereby attesting to its purity and value, and so originated the first acts of coinage, which is generally attributed far back in ancient history to Lydia, a country in Asia Minor, celebrated for its mineral wealth and gold, where probably the first gold staters were thus stamped

execution, both Christian and Barbarian coins being in use, and there are but few well struck specimens left to us, which few are mostly in gold. The early English Kings coined pennies and there are some existing of possibly the first attempts under Egberth and Cuthred, Kings of Kent, A. D., 765 to 805, but they are crude and uncertain. William the Conquerer, in 1066, issued fair specimens of pennies, and Edward I in 1280 issued a new coinage of pennies, half pence, and farthings, but it remained for Queen Elizabeth of England to set a step forward when she introduced the first experiment of milling money instead of hammering and also the establishment in 1600 of a Colonial silver currency for use of the East India Company. After this period coins began to get more of an even roundness and shape and all the large pieces such as silver dollars or crowns that we have of England, Germany or Saxony from the 16th century on, show again the gradual improvement and symmetry in the artistic work of coinage.



English Gold Thirty-Six Shilling Piece of James I.

Chinese coins date back perhaps 700 years before the Christian era, although the Chinese assert a coinage for forty centuries, and seem to have an origination all of their own, being different from those of all other countries, yet created through the same necessity of having some metal of a certain value to use as a medium of exchange in trade, this metal, etc., mostly of bronze, and finally developed into the familiar round brass coin with the square hole in the center, called "cash," which has been in use for centuries, the peculiar hieroglyphics thereon being generally the emperor's name, authority, and the value, which no doubt enables a Chinese scholar to trace back their rulers by this method as we did on the Roman and other coins, they also made use of porcelain and small sea shells—the United States mint containing some specimens of this porcelain money. The coins of Japan and Korea are similar to those of China, being distinguished at times by the color of the metal used and symbols thereon, Chinese coins being mostly of brass, while Japan issued some of copper, and Korea an alloy

Ancient Chinese Knife Money.

with the symbol of a lion pressed on one side of the coin. Silver was first coined in these crude lumps on the Island of Aegina where the ancient Greeks stamped a turtle on their first silver coins over 700 years before the

Tetradrachm of Agrigentum, 415-406 B. C.

Christian era. Centuries upon centuries ago the gold and silver we today strive for was equally understood and as fully appreciated, serving the same purposes, filling the same wants, that it does in our modern world of today.

The actual coinage of money now being an accomplished and accepted fact it was furthered along by the Greek nations, who after stamping thereon turtles, owls, images and

Silver Tetradrachm of Messana, Greece, About 400 B. C.

other objects of their divinity, finally with Alexander the Great, began to impress upon their coins crude portraits or heads of living persons and rulers, leaving to us thereby no uncertain means of tracing their lineage from time to time, an indestructible evidence to posterity of their existence, their appearance, and their advancement, this method was kept up and improved upon by the Romans who became proficient in the art in consequence of which we have today an immense number of Roman coins and silver Denarii preserved for centuries serving as a complete record of the ruling families of the Caesars, established by a close study of the features and inscriptions impressed upon their coinage.

If history were repeated and a like fate as the decline of Rome, or some great conclusion of nature, should leave the vast American continent but a buried memory—such as Pompeii, the Toltecs, or the Sphinx in the desert sands of Egypt—then future historians and archaeologists would almost be led to the conclusion that we were once upon a time a great nation of Juno's Indians and Eagles, as identified by the excavated remnants of our American coinage. Our preacher when he sized up the collection of a Sunday used to remark: "The Indians come to church much quicker than the eagles."

After the decline and fall of the Roman empire the coinage of money from an artistic standpoint began to deteriorate, and from the Byzantine period beginning with Anastasius in the fourth century until almost a thousand years later, money became crude in form and expression, unequal in shape or value, lacking design and

of both. The holes in these Chinese coins, and in most all coins of Asiatic countries, come from the need of stringing them like beads for preservation, as the Chinese and Hindu had no pockets in what little clothes they wore. Today all these countries and in fact every country, make coins of the same general appearance and shape as those of our country in addition to such as are made with holes.

Tetradrachm of Gelia, About 466 B. C.

Coins are made of gold, silver, nickel, bronze, copper, billion-a mixture of silver and copper, brass and aluminum, England having just lately adopted and struck a large number of aluminum coins for use in Africa and the Nigerian Protectorate, these coins will all have holes in the center for use of a people accustomed to string them as they do little shells or cowries which have been their methods of exchange from time beyond all memory.

The widow's mite in the United States mint is the smallest of ancient coins weighing only 10 grains representing about one-fifth of a cent in our value, it is called Lepton which comes from the Greek "leptos"—very small—hence "mite." Being found near the site of the ancient temple of Jerusalem it was presumed to be one of the mites offered by the widow of the Bible to the poor.

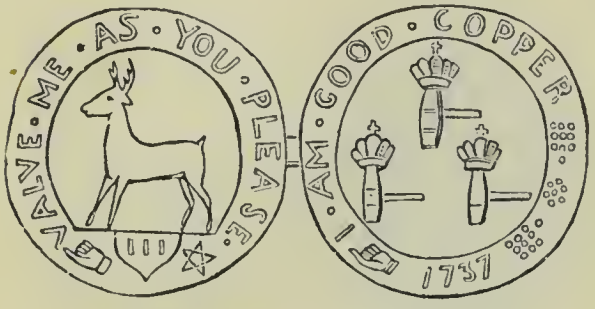
The dating of money in the modern chronological order began near the end of the fifteenth century, about the time Columbus was seeking new worlds, and coins may be found of Antwerp, 1475; Austria, 1479; Lorraine, 1488; besides other European provinces from 1490 to 1500. I have seen a very good specimen of an Austrian dollar dated 1486. England began to date in the reign of Edward VI, 1547 to 1558, but not on all coins, as we have shillings of Queen Elizabeth with date 1570 and crowns of 1600 without date. Ancient coins were often marked with the year of consulship, or the regal year, as for instance, Anno Regi, "A. R. XV," others with merely the decade, 83 as standing for 1483, 96 for 1496, while some of England had simply an 0 for 1600, or a 1 for 1601. Morocco coins bear the date of the Mohammedan era, which in our year of 1908 would be 1326, about 582 years less than our caledar system.

The first money used in America was furnished chiefly by Great Britain and Spain but the limited amount, scarcity, and need of it, tempted the colony of Massachusetts notwithstanding the opposition of the home government in England, to create a small mint in this country,

Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling.

which they did in 1652 where they struck some silver pieces which are known as "Oak" or "Pine Tree" money and are quite rare, being the first coins of American origin. Later Lord Baltimore issued coins for the colony of Maryland, 1659, then Mark Newby brought some half pennies and farthings to New Jersey, 1682. John Laws, 1720, and France sending over a lot of copper and bronze money for the "Colonies Francoise" in 1721-1722 to 1767. Woods Irish money and Rosa Americana series were sent here from England about 1722 to 1724. The first copper coins

actually made in America are credited to John Higly of Granby, Connecticut, in 1737, they were about the size of our old cent, had on them a deer and three hammers with the legends,



The John Higly Connecticut Coin.

"I am good copper, value me as you please." They were good copper but rather soft, easily worn off and have now almost entirely disappeared.

During and after the American war for independence various coins were struck by private individuals and by orders of congress, such as Chalmer tokens, 1783. Nova Constelatio, Fugio, Washington and U. S. bar cents, pewter dollars, etc., then state coinage of copper cents began with New Hampshire, 1776; Vermont and Connecticut, 1785; New Jersey, 1786; New York, 1787; followed by others until April 2nd, 1792, when President Washington signed a law to establish a United States mint which went into effect at once, a lot being bought on North Seventh street, above Market, Philadelphia, a new building erected which was finished September 7th and on September 11th the first six pounds of copper were bought for coinage. September 21, three coining presses arrived from Europe and early in October, 1792, the first "half disme" and a few copper cent patterns were struck by the new United States mint.

In 1793 the regular issue of copper cents began, which first appeared in a number of different styles such as wreath-link-liberty cap-flowing hair—lettered edge, plain edge, etc., being followed by an issue every year for the past 115 years with the exception of 1815 in which year none were coined. In 1794 the first dollar, half dollar and half dime were struck, in 1796 the first quarter and dime, in 1795 the first gold $10 eagle and $5 half eagle were struck, in 1849 the first gold $20 double eagle, in 1873 the first trade dollar. Gold coins were also issued by private parties as early as 1834, the $1, $2½ and $5 gold pieces of the Beehtlers in Noth Carolina, followed later by the western states, California, Colorado, Oregon and Utah, after the gold discoveries in California, 1849, of which there are numerous specimens still to be had, among them the $50 gold "slug" of A. Humbert, the Mormon issues, California ¼, ½ and $1 gold pieces, etc.

U. S. $50.00 Gold Piece.

The rarest American coin is the $20 gold double eagle of 1849 of which only one was struck which remains in the Philadelphia mint. It is a beautiful coin well struck, good clear impression and will hold its own in all

Utah Gold Piece Issued by the Mormons.

future time as against the new $20 gold "medal" pieces since they were remodeled and flattened out to stack, it is above price even though it is said that a rich collector once offered $35,000 for it. The United States "don't need the money." Next is the

Brashear Gold Doubloon.
Sold at Auction for $6,200. The highest record price ever paid for a single coin.

Ephraim Brasher gold doubloon (about $16) which sold for $6,200, the highest price ever paid for an American coin, then comes the 1804 silver dollar with a sale record of $3,600, the half eagle of 1822 at $2,165, half eagle of 1815 at $2,000, quarter eagle 1797 at $210, gold dollar 1855 at $33, a silver half dollar of 1797 at $120, silver quarter 1827 at $140, and a silver half dime 1802 $290. Uncirculated copper cents have also brought high prices as for instance 1793 $75, 1794 $52.50, 1795 $145, 1796 $80, 1799 $41.50, 1804 $100, 1806 $61. 1856 eagle $30. Next to the scarcity of the coin is the state of preservation that it is in, which determines its selling value, a dent or scratch will affect it. Old coins "uncirculated" rarely get into the hands or pockets of the general public, old worn cents of 1798 or 1800 can be had for 10 cents and 1799 or 1804 cents from $5 upwards, "its all in the appearance."

Large collections of coins can be seen in the Philadelphia mint, the University of Pennsylvania, and in the new building of the American Numismatic Society just finished, near Broadway and 156th street, New York, where an immense collection of 41,000 coins, medals and tokens are on exhibition.

The collection of coins while it sometimes assumes a commercial aspect generally begins as a hobby, and the pursuit and acquisition of certain coins are its pleasure and delight, some collect copper, others silver and gold, some American, others foreign, still others both, the collection of a complete perfect set of each years' cents, dimes or dollars, is what causes the fabulous prices, which certain coins sometimes reach, as a rich collector will stop at nothing in order to acquire a missing date, when a collector advances he naturally becomes absorbed in a vast amount of historical facts and events through the picturesque delineation of dates, monograms and features shown by the coins, he will even in some instances drift unconsciously into a study of history heraldry and mineralogy, whilst in ither cases deflect into some grotesque feature of extravagance in order to display his hobby, of which I will recite merely instances that came under my personal observation, for illustration: a metal worker, an excellent mechanic, spent almost a quarter of a century constructing a metal vase about five feet high which was entirely filled in and soldered with coins, and rare coins, of all nations, it was at several exhibitions and valued at over $25,000, containing about 4,000 coins. Another party has a splendid sideboard all inlaid with rare coins fastened with sealing wax, while a shopkeeper had a collection of copper coins all holed through the center and nailed to the counter. A saloon keeper had conspicuously displayed two large pictures with every letter of his name in large copper cents and half cents all brilliantly bronzed over, and half dozen other pictures of shields and other designs inlaid with rare coins,

which reminds me of "Silver Dollar Smith" of the east side, New York city, who some years ago had an entire room, sides and ceiling, all fancifully decorated in fresco embedded with hundreds of silver dollars. However, these are but vagaries and extremes in a field which has its peculiarities like everything else within the sphere of human ramifications.

The increase of private collectors in the United States has created a business for dealers and brokers in coins in our large cities, who draw upon the markets of the world for their supply, visit assayers and refiners, rescuing many a rare coin from

Stater of Corinth, 625-585 B. C.

the smelter's pot, buying up entire collections of a deceased gatherer whose heirs evince no desire to perpetuate his hobby, holding auction sales periodically for which they issue catalogues wherein each coin is minutely described to known buyers and other interested, who attend the sales in person or send in their bids by mail. I saw at such a sale in November, 1906, a remarkable collection of 109 white "flying eagle" cents all gathered by one man, and at another the complete issue of our silver dollars. The greatest sale of record in America, was the famous M. A. Stickney collection in June, 1907, at Philadelphia, which brought $37,859.21. A few numismatic journals are published in this country, which circulate mainly among a class who, as one of them aptly states, "have money to burn." Unfortunately, for the growth of my collection, I am not in that class.

This then is the story of money—how it came to be—what it is today—money to pay with and money to play with, and while the millions of earth are assiduously hustling in strict compliance with the inexorable dictum as laid down in the 19th verse, chapter 111 of the first book of Moses, which by the way has never changed—will never be otherwise, despite all the theories and isms ever advanced—some getting more and becoming sordid from mere accumulation—others getting less yet cheerful in an ever hopeful task to earn mere existence, so some thousands, aside from simply mercenary motives, have become gatherers of money in order to study it, to pore over old coins, to spend hours in wandering through past history, thus falling into a hobby and even for that there is an excuse as Dr. Kintzing of the Maryland Medical College, in his remarkable book "Long Life and How to Attain It," has this to say: "One of the saving graces of age, however—one that aids powerfully in prolonging the years of its owner on earth—are hobbies. He who cultivates an interest or follows a bent outside of his ordinary circle has a standinng distraction—a self-diversion that is bound to prove of inestimable benefit to him.

Now my hobby is the collection of a coin—or as many varieties as reasonably come my way—copper, nickel or silver—of every country, nation, province or city in all the world, that ever made coins, I have been at it many years, am still at it, hope to keep at it, while I rather confess that some day when the grim reaper comes along he will take me away from a job—left—UNFINISHED.

JOS. H. GEIS.

"That convention number of the MONTHLY was quick work. Received it on the 17th. You could not have done much better except being at the convention yourself and printing it here."—Jos. H. Geis, Philadelphia, Oct. 19.

Mehl's MONTHLY, 50c per year.

THE BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this society was held in the director's room of the Bostonian Society, Old State House, Friday afternoon, October 23, Dr. Green, the president, in the chair.

Several letters from Europe were read that had been received by the secretary during the summer. Several members exhibited coins, Dr. Storer showed three Dutch medals, admissions to hospitals and botanical gardens. Mr. Wood, an Inimica Tyrannis Americana with a Confederation 1785 reverse, this piece is very rare there being only about four known. Mr. Wood also exhibited several Oriental coins. Mr. Sterns brought in part of his collection of Pine Tree pieces and showed about forty varieties of willow, oak and Pine Tree pieces, many of which are inedited. HOWLAND WOOD, Secretary.

NUMISMATIC HAPPENINGS

From Washington we learn that the American Cross of Honor Association awarded the American Cross of Honor to Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy, at the meeting of the Association on the 15th of October.

We are informed by Mr. J. de Lagerberg of the death of the director of the Swedish mint, Emil Henrik Brusewitz, who died September 24th. He was born in 1840, was elected master of the mint in 1876 and in the same year was elected director of the Royal mint.

It is reported that the collection of coins and medals of the late King Oscar of Sweden was donated to the Crown Prince, under certain conditions of its remaining in Sweden. The value of the collection is estimated at about 42,000 krowns.

R. L. Deitriek of Lorraine, Va., has just issued a new price list of paper money. The list contains over 600 lots and seems to offer almost anything in the paper money line.

Mr. Adams informs us that rumors are floating about concerning a twenty-five dollar Templetor Reid. It would not be surprising to see one of these most interesting pieces turn up. Such a coin offered at auction would arouse great interest, and, judging by the rarity of the piece and recent prices paid for United States coins of private mintage, would probably bring a sum in excess of any previous record for a single coin.

Mehl's sale to take place November 11th, promises to be a record-breaker. Among the seven hundred lots of good stuff offered, there are some very valuable coins in choice condition, and from present prospects, record prices will prevail.

Another sale of importance, is that of the fine collection of Swedish coins of the late Commander W. Stahl, which is to be sold in Stockholm, Sweden. The dates of sale are November 3rd and 4th.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
(From the medal by Victor D. Brenner.)

A Lincoln Medal

Mr. Victor D. Brenner's Contribution to the Approaching Anniversary.

The public celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, which will occur next February, are not by any means to be the sole incidents marking the occasion. America will show here appreciation of him in many ways. It has already been mentioned of the various items of Lincoln literature which are to be expected in book form or in the magazines. The artists also will do their share. The first to enter the field is Mr. Victor D. Brenner, the well known medalist, who sends us the photographs which we reproduce of the design for which he is now cutting the dies. This medal is to be two and a half inches in diameter and will be struck in bronze and in silver.

It bears an excellent portrait of Lincoln, and on the reverse an interesting allegorical conception. The heaving sea in this represents the troubled times of Lincoln's administration. The rock rising above it stands for the constitution, and Lincoln himself is represented in the eagle looking toward the rays of light which break through the clouds. Thus, in the sculptor's idea he saw the bright future to be enjoyed by the people of the United tates after the war. On both sides of the medal Mr. Brenner has sought to illustrate the confident hope in Lincoln's soul. In the portrait he has aimed at giving an expression of happiness. He has wisely been chary of inscriptions With the portrait he gives only the two dates, 1809-1909, and on the reverse he reproduces in plain lettering three memorable words from the first inaugural address, "Preserve, Protect. Defend." Mr. Brenner's medal leaves in the photographs a very good impression. It has simplicity and dignity, and it will be interesting to see it executed.—New York Tribune.

NEW ISSUES.

Austria—We are indebted to Mr. J. Guttag for a rubbing of a Jubilee five kroner piece of this country. The design is a head of the old emperor in profile to right, inscription; "Franc. Ios. I. D. G. Imp. Avstr. Rex. Boh. Gal. Ill., etc, et. Ap. Rex. Tvng." Rev. Figure of Peace with olive branch running to left, at left, crowned 5 enclosing "cor." at right the imperial arms, Ius.; "Dvodecim Lustris 1848 1908 Gloriose Peractis. Silver. Edge enscribed "Virievs Viritis."

A DEALER'S LAMENT

With all due regard to Whittier, Shakespeare, Longfellow and the rest of the bunch.

Tell me one thing, tell me truly,
  Have you ever met the man
Who is making a collection
  On the four-cent limit plan?

If you've never met this lobster,
  You are certainly in luck:
For should you have dealings with him
  You would certainly get stuck.

Takes him pen and ink and paper,
  Writes each dealer on the list,
Asking them to send him coins,
  Prayers you really can't resist.

Says he now is specializing;
  Only wants just certain things.
If you only will oblige him
  Next mail his remittance brings.

So you go through all your treasures,
  Sending coins small and large,
Tie them neatly in a bundle,
  Send express, and pay the charge.

After weary weeks of waiting,
  Back the package comes, collect;
And you quickly tear it open,
  Find you've got it in the neck.

For the coins you thought to sell him,
  At a profit small, 'tis true,
Are contained within that package
  He has just returned to you.

Then you get his windy letter,
  Taking up more of your time,
And containing his remittance—
  Just One great big juicy dime.

Says he'd like to have the coins,
  And would take more that you sent:
But that times are hard this season;
  Landlord's calling for the rent.

So you charge to loss and profit
  What you thought would be cash all:
And if all men were of this class—
  It would send you to the wall.

Now to all of these would-be collectors
  We want to express our disgust.
And hope you and your fine (?) collection
  Will shortly turn to dust.

Necessity of Authentic Numismatic Literature

By WAYTE RAYMOND.

The most essential part of collecting coins, or a series of coins, is foreknowledge of the specimens to be collected. This can only be obtained by association with an experienced numismatist or through a study of numismatic literature relating to the series to be collected, so that on acquiring a new specimen, unless it be out of the ordinary, the collector may be able to identify it at once and know something of the coinage, rarity and valne of the piece.

Any collector of any experience can testify to the scarcity of any complete or reliable numismatic literature pertaining to the coins of our own country. Such works as there are in existence are either so scarce as to be unobtainable or bring prices that are more than the average collector desires to pay.

Why this scarcity of new and authentic literature? Are the numismatists of the present less learned in the science than those of the last generation? This cannot be possible, with the advantage of the knowledge of the writers of the last fifty years, such as Crosby, Frossard, Hayes, Maris, Donghty and others.

What the collectors of the present day are in need of is concise, well illustrated and as complete as possible works on the coins of this country at a moderate price. Taking under this head Colonial coins, early patterns, cents, half cents, silver and gold coins and store cards.

Among the members of our association there must certainly be those that have knowledge and experience enough to take these subjects and prepare individual works that would be as far as known complete, containing, in addition to all the information of their contemporaries, the results of the investigations of the past few years.

What an honor it would be to our association to have such works published by "The American Numismatic Association." Certainly a society with the membership we have can afford to back the publication of such works and allow the authors a sufficient royalty to make it an object for their labor.

Another need of the collector of today is association with other collectors. With the exception of those in large cities very few have more than two or three acquaintances interested in the science. This want could be materially aided by the formation of state chapters of the association, meeting in some principal town or city of the state either monthly or quarterly, as the facilities will admit of.

Editorial Note:—The above article by Mr. Raymond and the artiele by Mr. Green on next page, were intended for our Pre-Convention number, but in our haste, were partly overlooked. We think these articles of much interest to every member of the American Numismatie Association and we are sure that our readers will give them their due appreciation.

BACTRIAN Æ COINS.

It is often next to impossible to attribute these conis, for they are often so poorly struck and come with such rude and uncouth leters that reads forward and backward, up and down, more like a Chinese puzzle than an ordinary inscription, they rack a man's brain, and it is impossible to attribute many from the legends, unless cuts are shown in the books. Never look for fine Bactrian Æ; that is, don't look for them like you do for other Greeks; you'll very, very seldom find. They are puzzles indeed to the ordinary collector.

S. S. HEAL.

The Library

By BEN G. GREEN, LIBRARIAN.

A library was contemplated and provided for at the time the American Numismatic Association was organized. The By-Laws specify that any member can have any book in the library for a period of two weeks by paying postage or express charges both ways. A fine of 10 cents a week is to be collected where books are kept longer than two weeks. There has never been a fund created for purchasing books and magazines. All such now in the library have been donated. The list of these has been printed in the official organ several times, and a number of non-resident members have availed themselves of the privileges. The local and visiting members make frequent reference to the books, but seldom take them away from the library. All books, pamphlets, etc., are kept in a sectional book-case, which was kindly loaned by Mr. W. G. Jerrems, Jr., for use so long as the library remains in Chicago. Residents of Chicago and vicinity, as well as visiting members, have access to the library every business day of the year.

No current publications, not excepting the official organ, are received by the library. This feature of the Association can be made much more valuable if members would occasionally contribute some book or magazine with interesting numismatic matter. As for a cabinet, there is none. A few numismatic cards comprise the collection at present. Why not have some medals, cards and interesting specimens of coinage, not necessarily rare and valuable specimens, but something to start a cabinet?

The second edition of the Star Coin Book just published by B. Max Mehl, is nothing short of a wonder in the way of popular priced coin book. Being of 112 pages and covers and profusely illustrated with beautiful half tone plates of the rarest coins of the world, both American and foreign. It covers nearly every branch of the science of Numismatics, and, in all, contains complete information for every collector. Nothing of any importance was omitted. Some of the most highly prized rarities of the United States coins are represented in the illustrations which were made from photographs of the original coins. No other book on the market contains these reproductions. The book retails at 25 cents per copy, postpaid. Orders may be sent direct to the publisher, B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

"There are Nmismatic papers—and again Numismatic papers—but Mehl's has come to the front in the Numismatic paper world."—Theo E. Leon.

We are pleased indeed to note that our Convention number was so favorably received by our readers. We feared that we would be unable to give an accurate and yet quick report of the convention at Philadelphia, but to the best of our knowledge, we tendered our readers the quickest report of any A. N. A. convention ever held. The convention closed October 1st, and the MONTHLY was in the hands of all its readers about October 20th. Considering that the publication office is just about 2,000 miles from the convention seat, we think it pretty good work for a "youngster" like the MONTHLY.

"I don't care to hand you any dope, or preach, but as a man who has spent a lifetime in the publishing and printing business, I believe I am able to judge a good piece of work when I see it. And I must say that you are bringing your magazine up to a high standard both collectively and from an artistic standpoint. Keep it up."—W. E. Deeds.

General Secretary Howland Wood informs us that the A. N. A. membership list will be published this year in pamphlet form, the names being grouped by states. This is done so that the members can carry the list around with them for ready reference. All members will be supplied with a copy of this gratis and a slight charge will be made to non-members.

We are indebepted to Mr. Guttag for a clipping from a recent issue of the New York Tribune, wherein it states that the celebrated collection of pioneer gold coins gathered by the late DeWitt S. Smith, of Lee, Mass., has passed into possession of Field's Columbian Museum of Chicago, for the sum of $35,000. It is said the coins would have brought $50,000 at auction.

This collection is regarded as the most complete of its kind ever formed. It is to be regretted that it is to be forever removed from the market. And, in the words of Edmond de Goncourt, "to be consigned to the cold tomb of a museum, and subjected to the stupid glance of the careless passer-by."

We wish to call attention to the excellent article on "Money" in this issue. This article, while of interest to every collector of coins, is mainly intended for the young collector. And is just the kind of an article to be read by everyone afflicted with a case of "Numismatitis." We shall be only too glad to send a sample copy of this number of the MONTHLY to any names that may be furnished us by any of our subscribers.

Many of the subscriptions expire with the December number. Don't wait till you miss a few numbers and then send in your renewal. Send along 50 cents NOW, while you think of it. It will surely be about the best 50 cents' worth you ever received.

"Your Numismatic Monthly is a very welcome caller, and you are not only to be congratulated but praised for putting out such a fine magazine."

DR. A. L. FISHER.

Dr. Jacob Hirsch, of Munchen, favors us with a copy of his catalogue of his XXI auction sale to take place on November 16th and following days. The collection offered is that of Consul Edward F. Weber, Hamburg, and consits of no less than 4747 lots of magnificent Greek coins. The illustrated edition of the catalogue contains sixty-one beautiful plates, illustrating about all the rarities of the sale.

On November 25th, the same cataloguer is to offer a collection of 271 Roman coins. And from the illustrations to hand, they represent some of the most beautiful specimens that has ever come to our notice.

We wish to express our appreciation to the gentlemen who so kindly favor us with clippings and other interesting news items from time to time. It is only with the kind assistance of our many readers that we can hope of bringing this magazine up to a higher and more useful standard. Clippings were thankfully received from Messrs. Johnson, Stevens, Prinzig, Lagerberg, Guttag, Woods and Leon.

We learn through the press that the mint at San Francisco, after coining $43,000 in the new $20 gold pieces has stopped coining these pieces on orders from Washington. The reason for the withdrawal of the last issue of the $20 gold pieces, so we are told, was because it was impossible to stack them. Some of us have found that difficulty with all kinds of twenties.

Mr. Wayte Raymond, South Norwalk, Conn., will hold a sale of coins on November 9th. The catalogue contains a very nice lot of average coins, both United States and foreign.

Historical Book Old Laws

CHARLES C. SAFFELL

BOOK MERCHANT

305 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md.

Rare and Scarce Books, Session Laws, State Journals, Constitutional Conventions, State and City Histories, Bought and Sold.

ENGRAVINGS, PORTRAITS,

VIEWS and PRINTS.

CHARLES C. SAFFEL

305 St. Paul St. - - Baltimore, Md.

(3, Jan.)

Trial, 3 mos., 10 cents.

World's Greatest Collectors' Magazine

FOUNDED IN 1895

THE PHILATELIC WEST

And Collectors' World

SUPERIOR, NEBR., U. S. A.

The oldest, largest monthly American Collector's Paper published by non-dealer. 100 pages each issue, replete with interesting reading and advertising, illustrated, pertaining to Stamps, Curios, Coins, Postal Cards and Entire Covers, Minerals, Relics of all kinds, Cameras, etc. Over 3600 pages issued in 2 years.

An unimitated, expensive, meritorious feature is the publication in each number of illustrations of leading collectors and dealers of the world. A possessor of complete files has a valuable and interesting collection, worthy of preservation.

Official Organ of over 40 popular societies. 35,000 members. The review of all papers of all languages is an attractive addition. Interesting matter from French, German, Latin and from all foreign English papers in each number.

50 cents for 12 numbers; foreign, $1 or 4s.

ADVERTISERS

A word with you; that collectors appreciate the above attractive features is evidenced by our large and growing subscription list. The WEST circulates all over the world. Over 12,000 ads in 2 years.

Trial Ad 1 cent per word in Trade Column; 3 times for price of 2.

L. T. BRODSTONE, Publisher,
Superior, Nebr. (U. S. A.)
SAMPLE COPY SENT FREE.

FOR SALE

COLLECTION OF

PIONEER GOLD COINS

Collection of 26 pieces, all different, for $800. Comprising Bechtler $1 (3), $2.50, $5 (2), Clark & Co. $2.50, $5, Clark Gruber $2.50, $5, $10 (2), N. G. & N. $5, Oregon $5, Mormon $5 (3), W. M. & C. $10, Moffatt $5, $10, $20, U. S. Assay $10, $20, Kellogg $20, Humbert $10, $50. At present auction prices, would cost more than amount asked. Buying separately, would take years to secure all, and then only at increased prices, as values steadily advance.

Also for sale for $75, a type collection of California Gold Dollars, Halves and Quarters, 27 pieces, all different, including very rare ROUND Indian and Liberty head Dollars, also the 1853 Half, Female seated, Eagle on reverse. Send for full description and condition.

H. F. WILLIAMS

100 Washington Street CHICAGO

Bargain Corner

OLD U. S. COINS

FOR SALE CHEAP

Half Cents, two diff. dates	$ .40
Large Cents, five diff. dates	.25
Eagle Cents, two diff. dates	.10
Two-Cent Pieces, two diff. dates	.15
Three-Cent Pieces, three diff. dates	.25
Half Dimes, two diff. dates	.25
Dimes, dated before 1835, each	.35
Half Dimes, dated before 1836, each	.25
Twenty-Cent Pieces, each	.50
Quarters, dated before 1836, each	.50
Isabella Quarter, Bust of Queen Isabella. The only U. S. Coin with a crowned head	1.00
Old Half Dollars, dated before 1820	1.00

THE ABOVE LOT OF 22 COINS, ONLY $4.50.

Would make a very interesting little collection.

Half Dollars, dated in the 20's	$ .90
Half Dollars, dated in the 3$'s	.75
Columbian Half Dollars, 1893	.65
Columbian Half Dollars, dated 1892	.75
Silver Dollars, dated before 1804, each	3.00
Silver Dollars, Liberty seated, each	2.00
Trade Dollars, each	1.25
Washington-Lafayette Dollars, each	2.25

THE ABOVE FOUR DIFFERENT DOLLARS FOR $8.00.

Connecticut State Cent, dated 1787	.50
New Jersey State Cent, dated 1787 or 1788	.75

GOLD COINS OF ALL KINDS, such as gold dollars, $2.50 gold pieces, $2.50 gold pieces, $3.00 gold pieces, old $5.00 and $10.00 pieces always in stock. Prices on application.

Postage and Registry Fee Extra on All Coins.

Thousands of Coins in stock at very fair prices.

B. MAX MEHL

P. O. Box 826 - Fort Worth, Texas

TRADE COLUMN

RATE—1c per word for WANT and EXCHANGE ads, and 2c per word for all FOR SALE ads. We require cash in advance for all Trade Column advertising. No ads accepted for less than 25c. Three insertions for the price of two.

If you have anything to sell or want to buy anything, try an ad in this column for satisfactory results.

REVOLUTIONARY RELICS—Flint Lock Guns, Powder Horns, Cannon Balls. Coins dug up at Ticonderoga, Bemis Heights (Saratoga). Indian Relics. Books on coins, new or out of print, quickly supplied, etc. Wilder's Old Curiosity Shop, Saratoga, N. Y. (Nov.)

FOR SALE—16 old half dollars, all in good condition. Few other minor coins fair to good. Address Flippen Vick, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 3 (Dec.)

FREE—Rare coin over 100 years old. Send 6c for mailing. Louis Bohn, Jr., 702 Duff St., Pittsburg, Pa. 3 (Dec.)

WANTED—For cash, $1.00 and $2.00 U. S. Greenbacks, uncirculated, from 1862 to 1890. Also Broken Bank Notes. R. L. Deitrick, Lorraine, Va. 6 (Apr.)

100 all different foreign stamps for eight cents. E. H. Morrison, Alvin, Texas.

AUTOGRAPHS, Historical Relics, Envelopes, Revenues, Department and Local stamps. American and Foreign. Wholesale and retail. J. H. Houston, 337 Pa. Ave., Washington, D. C.

Our TRADE COLUMN offers an excellent and inexpensive method for collectors to dispose of their duplicates or obtain desired specimens. If you have anything to offer or wish to obtain anything in the coin line, try an ad. in the Trade Column. You will be surprised at the "pulling power" of this magazine.

56 Pages 7th Year

COLLECTORS' JOURNAL

Largest English monthly for Postage Stamps, Picture Postcard, Coin and Curio Collectors. 56 pages every issue. PRICE TWO CENTS. Subscription 50 cents for 12 issues post free. A 24-word advt. free to all subscribers. New issues of stamps and postcards fully illustrated.

COLLECTORS' WEEKLY

12 Big Pages Price One Cent

Largest English weekly newspaper for collectors of Postage Stamps, Picture Postcards, Coins, China and Curios. Every issue fully illustrated. 12 Big Pages, being 36 columns. PRICE ONE CENT WEEKLY. Subscription: 13 weeks, 27 cents; 26 weeks, 54 cents; 52 weeks, $1. 8 cents, Post Free. A 24-word advertisement free to all subscribers. Advertising Rates: Display advts., 36 cents per inch. Sale and Exchange advts., 6 words for 2 cents. Three insertions price of two.

All remittances by Money Order or U. S. Bills or Drafts. English stamps and English money accepted. Foreign stamps refused.

PHILATELIC & CARTOPHILIC PRINTING CO., Publishers,
Rotherham, Eng.

All papers reproducing the above advertisement 12 times receive same value space in "Collectors' Journal" or the "Collectors' Weekly."

STAMPS FREE—100, all different, for the names of two Collectors and 2c postage.

50 diff. Sweden Stamps.....10c
20 diff. Russian Stamps.....10c
20 diff. Japan Stamps.....10c
100 diff. U. S. Stamps.....19c
2 Congo Stamps...7c 2 Siam Stamps....4c
2 Liberia Stamps..7c 3 Crete Stamps...5c
1000 Stamp Hinges, 8c; 5000.....30c
5 Blank Approval Books, 15c; 100.....90c
Stamp Album, Illustrated, holds 3,500.....35c

We Buy Stamps—Buying List 10c.
TOLEDO STAMP CO.,
Toledo, Ohio, U. S. A.

Cash Paid

For INDIAN RELICS, FOSSILS and MINERALS, in large or small lots, entire collections, etc.

R. E. Holmes

Montrose, Nebraska.

IF NOT A SUBSCRIBER, SEND IN YOUR 50 CENTS AND GET THIS MAGAZINE FOR A WHOLE YEAR SUBSCRIBE NOW.

Charles K. Warner

Established 1863

DEALER IN

Fine Proof American Medals and Medaletts, in Gilt, Bronez and White Metal, commemorative of various historical events that have taken place throughout the United States, for private collections. 1908 Catalogues forwarded to the address of any collector of coins and medals, gratuitously.

No. 1115 Mount Vernon St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

RELICS From the homes of other days and the people of other times.

OLD CHINA AND PEWTER DISHES, FLINT LOCK GUNS and PISTOLS.

PIONEER, WAR AND INDIAN RELICS.

Price List for 2c Stamp.

DAVIS BROS.,

326 Stow St., Kent, Ohio.

Mekeel's News & Trade Circular

Issued monthly or oftener (Sample free).

Every stamp collector will find something of interest in this novel publication. It covers all of the following features:

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.
A means to increase a collection by exchange.

THE 1908 FOREIGN STAMP CLUBS.
A quick cash market for the realization of rare stamps, lots and collections. The cash is ready.

STAMP LITERATURE.
A collector's library, as the foundation of stamp knowledge, is important. We have the publications.

STAMP ALBUMS.
The "Popular" Album, 25c, 50c and 75c, for the beginner. 19th and 20th Century editions of large printed albums for the ordinary collector. A Patent Binder, with movable blank leaves, and specially laid out countries, for the real collector.

APPROVAL DEPARTMENT.
The sale of stamps on approval is the really important feature of our business, and relations are solicited with advanced collectors as well as beginners.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
A most important branch of our business carried on with collectors and dealers in all parts of the world.

(Established 1877.)

Volume of cash business has been between two and three million dollars.

C. H. MEKEEL,
R. F. D. 29 ST. LOUIS, MO.

FOR SALE BY

DIVVER & CO.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

136 East Linden Avenue **Long Distance Phone 1190 North**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Confederate Treasury Notes, Confederate Bonds, Broken Bank Notes, State Notes and Shinplasters, Confederate Postage Stamps, U. S. Fractional Currency, Continental and Colonial Currency, Rare U. S. Gold, Silver and Copper Coins, Bills of Sale of Slaves, Miscellaneous Curiosities.

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

First Issue

5c bust of Jefferson	$ .30
10c Bust of Washington	.35
25c Bust of Jefferson	.75
50c Bust of Washington	1.00

Second Issue

5c Bust of Washington in Bronze Ring.	$ .25
10c Bust of Washington in Bronze Ring.	.25
25c Bust of Washington in Bronze Ring.	.50
50c Bust of Washington in Bronze Ring.	1.50

Third Issue

3c Bust of Washington	$ .50
5c Bust of Clark	.50
10c Bust of Washington	.35
25c Bust of Fessenden	.60
50c Bust of Spinner	1.50
5c Justice in Center	1.00

Fourth Issue

10c Liberty	$ .35
15c Columbia	1.00
25c Bust of Washington	.60
50c Bust of Stanton	1.00
50c Bust of Lincoln	1.50

Fifth Issue

25c Bust of Merideth	$ .30
10c Bust of Walker	.50
50c Bust of Crawford	.90
50c Bust of Dexter	1.00

MISCELLANEOUS COINS and CURIOS

Mexican Gold $1.00 pieces	$2.00
U. S. Gold $1.00 pieces	3.00
California Gold $¼, either round or octagonal	.30
California Gold, $½, either round or octagonal	.60
U. S. 2c Copper Coins	.10
U. S. 3c Silver Coins	.15
U. S. 3c Nickel Coins	.10
U. S. V Nickle Coins, **without the word cents—coinage stopped**	.15
Confederate State Postage Stamps, unused and new set of (4), 2c, 5c, 10c and 20c, complete set	.50
Chinese Copper Coins, 2 varieties	.10
U. S. ½c pieces, 20c, 5 different varieties	1.00
Philippine, ½c pieces, new coinage	.25
Holland ½c pieces, new coinage	.20
Panama 2½c pieces, silver coin	.25
U. S. 20c pieces	.50
U. S. Isabella 25c, coined for Woman's Board, World's Fair, Chicago	1.00
Lafayette Dollars	2.25
U. S. Trade Dollars	1.50
Cape of Good Hope Bank Notes, 5 shillings	.50
Broken Bank Notes, 10 varieties, fine collection	1.00
C. S. A. Notes, 10 varieties, fine collection	1.00
C. S. A. Notes, 25 varieties, fine collection	2.00

We have many curios, and rare notes also in uncut sheets of many different varieties. Write us if interested. Make all remittances by money order or draft; stamps may be used for remittances under $1.00. Postage and registry fee extra.

DIVVER & CO.

ATLANTA, GA.